

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 17, 24, and 28

Independent claims 1, 17, 24, and 28 each stand rejected as anticipated by Iso-Sipilaet (U.S. 6,697,782). Applicant submits that Iso-Sipilaet neither discloses nor suggests at least "generating a generic response which is provided to said user in response to said unrecognized speech comparison process determining that said user's speech command is unrecognized speech," as recited by claim 1, or "[generating] a generic response and [providing] it to the user if it is determined that the user's speech command is unrecognized speech," as recited by each of claims 17, 24, and 28, or "generating a generic response and providing it to a user if the audio signal is identified as belonging to the category of unrecognized speech," as recited by claim 34.

The Examiner states that Iso-Sipilaet discloses "an unrecognized speech response process, responsive to said unrecognized speech comparison process determining that said user's speech command is unrecognized speech, for generating a generic response which is provided to said user" at column 10, lines 30-41. However, while the cited portion of Iso-Sipilaet, reproduced below, does describe providing an audio and/or visual signal to a user to inform the user of failure of recognition of a first stage (due to a first confidence value being smaller than a first threshold), such a signal is not provided to the user in response to determining that the user's speech is unrecognized speech.

To increase the convenience of use of the wireless communication device 1 in those cases where the first recognition of the command word did not provide a sufficiently reliable recognition, the user can be informed of the failure of the recognition of the first stage and be requested to utter the command word again. The wireless communication device 1 forms e.g. an audio message with a speech synthesizer 8 and/or a visual message on a display means 13. The wireless communication device 1 can inform the user with an audio and/or visual signal also in a situation where the recognition was successful. Thus it will not remain obscure to the user whether the recognition was successful or not. This is particularly useful under noisy use conditions.

Assuming the Examiner is interpreting the three regimes described in Iso-Sipilaet "recognition certain," recognition uncertain," and "recognition very uncertain" as the "recognized speech," unrecognized speech," and "non-speech," recited in the claims, this "audio

and/or visual signal” is clearly meant to distinguish between “recognized speech” and the other two categories, and does not serve as a generic response in response to determining that the user’s speech is “unrecognized speech.” Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify this teaching to arrive at the claimed subject matter because there is nothing in Iso-Sipilaet to suggest such a modification.

Thus, claims 1, 17, 24, and 28 should be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 9, 23, and 33

Dependent claims 9 and 23 stand rejected as unpatentable over Iso-Sipilaet in view of Gammel (U.S. 5,832,429). The above-mentioned subject matter recited by claims 1 and 17 and found to be lacking in Iso-Sipilaet is not taught or suggested by any proper combination of Iso-Sipilaet and Gammel. Applicant submits that because claim 9 depends from claim 1 and claim 23 depends from claim 23, claims 9 and 23 are patentable for at least this reason.

Dependent claim 33 stands rejected as unpatentable over Iso-Sipilaet in view of Gabai (U.S. 6,160,986). The above-mentioned subject-matter recited by claim 28 and found to be lacking in Iso-Sipilaet is not taught or suggested by any proper combination of Iso-Sipilaet and Gabai. Applicant submits that because claim 33 depends from claim 28, claim 33 is patentable for at least this reason.

Remaining Dependent claims

The remaining dependent claims are all properly dependent on a respective one of the independent claims, and are thus allowable therewith. These dependent claims add one or more further limitations not presently relied upon to establish patentability. For that reason, and not because Applicant agrees with the Examiner, no rebuttal is offered to the Examiner’s reasons for rejecting these dependent claims.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney’s Docket No. 10663-013001.

Applicant : Daniel L. Roth et al
Serial No. : 09/779,426
Filed : February 8, 2001
Page : 12 of 12

Attorney's Docket No.: 10663-013001

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2-20-07



Elliott J. Mason, III
Reg. No. 56,569

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906